

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club<sup>®</sup>Inc. Office of the International Vice President

## **Spike Ostiguy**



50 Sandwich Street, Apt. 4 Plymouth, MA 02360 413.896.5908 vicepresident@redknightsmc.com

## End of the Year Report 2019

Fraternal greetings everyone,

As 2019 draws to a close, I approach my tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) month of retirement. This past February 6<sup>th</sup>, I retired from the City of Holyoke Fire Department after 33 years of career service. It all started in November of 1978 as a Call Firefighter (9 yrs.) with the Warren Fire Department. A small central Massachusetts town where I was born and raised. It is true what they say once retired... "I don't know how I got other things done when I was working," because I haven't stopped lol.

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Plymouth, Massachusetts 94 degrees Fahrenheit, 107 degree heat index, I Married Karen Tuttle (RKMC, MA IV). High School classmates of 40+ years ago... We re-connected. I Love You KT !!!

To business at hand...

Please join me/ us, as we congratulate Joey Powel as this organizations 11<sup>th</sup> International President. I know that I look forward to my continued works with Joey moving forward. *Next...* 

Which brings me to President Gadway, Chris.

For me anyways, **Thank You** doesn't seem sufficient.

I don't even think Chris knew that this organization would transcend in which the manner it has since 2013. Highlights; Red Knights Memorial Park re-dedication. Red Knights Memorial Hall.

Red Knights Memorial Foundation. Eclipsing the 10,000 R.K. member mark. To name a few.

Thank you Chris for your leadership, steering the ship, guidance, and most of all mentoring.

Thank you Julie for your support and patience. We are well aware of the times, family or otherwise,

meals, including anniversary dinners, where we stole Chris away. This has not gone unnoticed.

Chris and Julie thank you. Best wishes with this, a fresh re-start of a new chapter in your lives.

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Representing the membership, this past year I attended;

2018 - Fall Board Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland Oct. 25-29

2019 - Spring Board Meeting, Baltimore, MD May 1-4

2019 - Summer Board Meeting, ABM, Lincoln, New Hampshire Aug. 20-25

2019 – Fall Board Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland Oct. 31 – Nov. 2

All conference calls of the RKI, RKR and RKMF

As a Massachusetts Chapter IV member, I currently sit on the R.K. Memorial Hall/Park Committee

R.K.M.C. Yankee Rally, Marlborough, MA June, 2019

And a number of local & regionally sponsored R.K. rides/events.

As in years past, and as always it saddens us to report the loss of members.

RKF

## State of the Member-At-Large (M.A.L.) Program

At the time of this report... we have 332 M.A.L.'s

| Region $1 = 56$ | Region $2 = 22$ |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Region $3 = 27$ | Region $4 = 37$ |
| Region $5 = 43$ | Region $6 = 41$ |
| Region 7 = 89   | Region $8 = 17$ |

## **2019 Reflections**

Randolph, New Hampshire June 21, 2019

Seven (7) lives were taken. Fellow motorcyclist, five of which belonging to the Jarheads M/C. Loving what they love to do. Loving what we (R.K's) love to do.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Worcester, MA Cold Storage Warehouse Fire. Six (6) members of the City of Worcester Fire Department lives were lost. AKA Worcester Six / W-6 One of the six, Timothy "Tim" Jackson, a close personal friend & member of the Red Knights Massachusetts Chapter IV, and the first name on the Red Knights Memorial Monument, "Line of Duty" deaths.

Please take a moment and reflect. If you pray, please pray for the families and friends of all those who have been touched. Including all who responded and care givers. Please be careful out there... Be safe and ride safe.

Remember, the Red Knights are active 24/7 around the clock... around the world.

Remember, it is YOU that steer this incredible family organization. My door/phone is always open. By all means please feel free to reach out to me or any Board Member for that matter with any questions, comments, and or concerns that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Spike Ostiguy R.K.I.F.M.C. International Vice President Life Member Massachusetts Chapter IV 413-896-5908

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